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Creating an environment at the national and international levels conducive to generating full and productive employment and decent work for all, and its impact on sustainable development

Statement submitted by the Foundation Alvaralice, a non-governmental organization working in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council

The Secretary-General has received the following statement, which is being circulated in accordance with paragraphs 36 and 37 of Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

* E/2006/100.

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Statement

Founded in 2003, Fundación Alvaralice is a family organization based in Cali, Colombia. The mission of the foundation is to promote alliances on the local, national and international levels in the areas of income-generation, education, health care and peacebuilding, addressing the needs of the most vulnerable members of the population, these being predominantly women and children.

Colombia is making serious strides towards addressing the grievances and needs of the many victims of the ongoing conflict and the resulting internally displaced population, currently estimated to be around 3 million. An additional challenge of this situation is to generate opportunities for the former combatants looking to re-enter society, and provide them with the income-generating opportunities they will need to be self-sufficient and deter their return to their former life.

Alvaralice is directing its efforts at the reduction of poverty through the promotion of income-generating activities, and tangentially promoting gender equality and empowering women by giving them the same opportunities to become self-sufficient.

Working in conjunction with Fundación Paz y Bien — a grass-roots organization acting as the programme management agency — Alvaralice provides financial and technical support to the Alejandrina Chávez Center for Household Management, where women, most of them heads of households or internally displaced due to the internal conflict — receive training on knowledge and skills to properly address household issues. This training also includes issues of sexual and reproductive rights, and education regarding their legal rights, particularly in regards to their employment status.

The Foundation is also currently developing a long-term initiative to support the implementation of Law 975 — The Justice and Peace Law — passed last year by the Colombian Congress. As a result of this law, as many as 28,000 armed rebels could demobilize and will be looking to re-enter society. Simultaneously, the Law provides victims of the conflict with various measures of reparation and community reconciliation. In addition to facilitating the rebuilding of community relationships, one of the key aims of these Centers, to be established in the areas most affected by the conflict, will be to reinitiate successful agricultural activities that were interrupted or affected by the conflict, and promote the cultivation of agricultural products for self-sustainability and income generation.

The Foundation aims to support the measures that will promote peacebuilding and conflict resolution, which in turn support the achievement of several of the Millennium Goals. Colombia needs the support of the international community to continue in its efforts towards a long lasting peace.